

Preliminary Amendment  
Filed: November 15, 2006

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

The drawings are replaced with replacement drawings that do not include hand drawn Figures. No new matter has been added to the Figures in the Drawings.

**REMARKS**

Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 1 through 3 and 6 through 11 remain in the patent application. Claim 1 is in independent form.

The drawings have been objected to because they were hand drawn and the reference characters were handwritten. The drawings have been replaced with formally drawn Figures. No new matter has been added to the Figures. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,913,245, issued to Grossman (the “ ’245 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The ’245 reference discloses a multi-layered sensor having elongated optical fibers. The multi-layered sensor includes an optical fiber and rod-like elements 44 and stress concentrators 32A. All of these elements are secured together with adhesive means 26B.

Claim 1, as amended to clarify the invention, claims a multi-layered sensor having an optical wave guide. The optical wave guide defines a structure (52, 82, 104) in which the optical wave guide (18, 42, 60) is contained. The structure (52, 82, 104) has a front layer (54, 84, 106) and a rear layer (56, 86), which transmits an external application of force directly onto the optical wave guide (18, 42, 60). The structure is further defined by clips (34, 102) and ribs (38, 62, 88) which serve to guide the optical wave guide (18, 42, 60).

While the ’245 reference discloses a multi-layered sensor, it does not disclose a structure having clips and ribs which are used to guide the optical wave guide. This is conceded by the Examiner which states such a combination is allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim

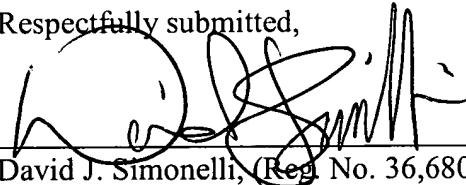
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1, and all claims depending therefrom, overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Simonelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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